Atkinson's Saturday Evening Post.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER—DEVOTED TO NEWS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE, MORALITY, AGRICULTURE AND AMUSEMENT.

Vol. XVI. *Philadelphia, February* 18, 1837. **Whole No. 812.**

FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

ALETHEA.

"Liber embens mulier sachbyh frixer,
Manchent eighirin ungheem kvixer."

From a Celtic parchment, Anno 3966.

Translated by N. C. Brooks, A. M.

The trees formed the boundary of the forest, that bowed awfully through the echoing forest; the moon through the murky clouds enveloping her, shed a pale light that scarcely rendered the darkness palpable; while the heavy rumbling of distant thunder announced the approaching storm. In the home of darkness and solitude, a female, muffled up in a thick mantle, with a fearless step glided on through an opening of the forest.

Arriving at the thick row of trees, that circularly disposed, enclosed the sacred cave of a Druid, she paused through fear, and then, with a firm resolution advanced to the venerable hoary sage, who, reclining under the covering of the cave, was intently perusing the dark mysterious passages of the *Triads*.

Observing a stranger before him, with a grave tone that echoed solemnly through the grove, he demanded her business. "For what purpose comest thou? Speak!" "The knowledge of my destiny," replied the maiden, at the same time bowing to the earth, and presenting the offering she had brought.

Having received the offering, he placed it upon the great altar, which was formed of solid rock, curiously wrought and the whole of one turf; and then motioned to the maiden to take her stand upon the one of ancient stones that lay on the right, which was surmounted by a broad arch, on which numerous mysterious figures were engraved.

The altar was then lighted, and the sacred fire set to bright curling flames that illumined the spacious cave, and threw a brilliant light on the venerable form, which blackened the surface of the sacred stream, that three winding around the altar, continued its silent course under the opposite arch, and then rolled its wide extended flood. The crackling flame increased in brightness, and the altar exhaled delicious perfume, that, like the light, filled the whole cave.

Silence, though not the sullen silence of the tomb, she pursue the clamour amid the pleasant groves and forests of Caledonia.

So sudden and unexpected a separation from her friend, Alethea was unable to bear. Her heart sickened within her; the young hopes that her bosom had cherished were blighted by this withering intelligence, and she powerfully pressing her head upon Ellemide's breast, she entreated him not to agonize her breast by leaving her hopeless and forlorn to mourn over the wreck of all that had been dear and lovely gone. She entreated him by every tender epithet to remain, if every argument proved not sufficiently be eternal, if urgent affairs called him away at present.

"Alethea!" said he, in a tone in which the warmth of love was tempered by cool decision, "in not for you to know a moment's pain, while our separation is forever, if we are parted now; but we shall know hereafter. One thing alone can quiet the anxiety of my mind, and that is the hope that the time ere you moon has completed her orb, and I will never leave thee, my life! but cherish thee with the fervour of the fondest love. Then, if I deserve thee wins the mysterious cloud that hangs around the destiny of Alethea, and the wrath of Taranis," whose mantle, are now raising flame in the western sky, consume the body of the unfeeling Ellemide, and roll to ruin the spot that to-night, when thy father will solicit the hand of his dark-haired daughter."

Alethea trusting the solemn asseverations of Ellemide, and in this assurance, to which becoming mysterious circumstances connected with him, placed her left hand upon her breast, and extended her right to Ellemide, who fervently pressed it. Transported with joy, Ellemide received her proffered hand, and pressing it to his lips caressed it with a thousand kisses.

When Alethea had returned that night from the council, the pleasure that she felt was great, when by Ellemide in the absence of Alethea, who did not wish to be present at the council for fear of her too-fond affection, more particularly as she feared her father would be adverse to the union. Alethea had not yet told to Ellemide the name of her father, the name upon the stern excited at once surprise and fear, for it was the name of a family long famous for its numerous descendants, and who had ever been distinguished for their hostility to the Britons. Alethea knew that her father would not consent to her union with a Briton, and she feared that Ellemide would not love her the more tenderly when he knew that she was the daughter of Ellemide, and the estrangement of her father would be the consequence of this discovery.

Ellemide, though he had not yet told her his name, had informed her that he was the son of a chief, who was the friend of Alethea's father, and that his father would be pleased with the union of his son with the daughter of Ellemide, and the estrangement of her father would be the consequence of this discovery.

Ellemide, though he had not yet told her his name, had informed her that he was the son of a chief, who was the friend of Alethea's father, and that his father would be pleased with the union of his son with the daughter of Ellemide, and the estrangement of her father would be the consequence of this discovery.

The exercise of hunting was still continued; Alethea, her lover, and father, all being equally fond of it: though the company of the latter, was sometimes dispensed with, that these two, as an attention to that delightful interchange of looks and words so grateful to lovers.

One evening, when alone, they came to the place where she first saw Ellemide, when seating themselves on a mossy eminence, they conversed of the impressions felt by each at their first meeting, and the different sensations, hopes and fears, that had actuated them during the time that passed, when Alethea inquired why, at different times, when there had accidentally met, he fled her presence.

A vague, unmeaning look, and hesitating answer was returned, followed by a remark intended to give a change to the conversation, which Alethea understood, perceiving his evident embarrassment.

Returning to the Chateau without much success in hunting, they met a stranger habited in armed *cap-a-pie* and covered with a heavy coat of mail, who solicited the hospitality of the Chateau, and was received as being first in command of the most singular appearance. His countenance was dark and swarthy, and was, no doubt now, but it was the *arms* of a Druid, as such remains were known to exist in the neighborhood of Willsboro, and it was deemed sacred folly to mix up the whole work. They had not proceeded far, when they met an assailant with two companions, in which they found strange visions of gold and silver, such as might have been found in the sacred curved cave of a soldier's grave similar to those on the stones. At the bottom of the cave was a small stone, with inscriptions in Celtic, but almost obliterated by time. The explorers and its contents the full credit to the Marquis of Hertford, and was placed in his museum of antiquities.

During a tour in the year 1825, through England and Scotland, I was struck with the circumstance, which is certainly, the largest of the kind in the country, and a great addition to the city of Druid remains, and one glad to find them in a language which I could translate with some degree of facility. The service generally consists of a long prayer, which is read from a book, which appears to be a history of the times, in a tolerably good style of pronunciation. I determined on translating it, and accordingly set myself about the work. The sun and substance in a style rather different from the common and not altogether to affect the general history of the tale.

ALETHEA.

"Liber embens mulier sachbyh frixer,
Manchent eighirin ungheem kvixer."

From a Celtic parchment, Anno 3966.

Translated by N. C. Brooks, A. M.

The trees formed the boundary of the forest, that bowed awfully through the echoing forest; the moon through the murky clouds enveloping her, shed a pale light that scarcely rendered the darkness palpable; while the heavy rumbling of distant thunder announced the approaching storm. In the home of darkness and solitude, a female, muffled up in a thick mantle, with a fearless step glided on through an opening of the forest.

Arriving at the thick row of trees, that circularly disposed, enclosed the sacred cave of a Druid, she paused through fear, and then, with a firm resolution advanced to the venerable hoary sage, who, reclining under the covering of the cave, was intently perusing the dark mysterious passages of the *Triads*.

Observing a stranger before him, with a grave tone that echoed solemnly through the grove, he demanded her business. "For what purpose comest thou? Speak!" "The knowledge of my destiny," replied the maiden, at the same time bowing to the earth, and presenting the offering she had brought.

Having received the offering, he placed it upon the great altar, which was formed of solid rock, curiously wrought and the whole of one turf; and then motioned to the maiden to take her stand upon the one of ancient stones that lay on the right, which was surmounted by a broad arch, on which numerous mysterious figures were engraved.

The altar was then lighted, and the sacred fire set to bright curling flames that illumined the spacious cave, and threw a brilliant light on the venerable form, which blackened the surface of the sacred stream, that three winding around the altar, continued its silent course under the opposite arch, and then rolled its wide extended flood. The crackling flame increased in brightness, and the altar exhaled delicious perfume, that, like the light, filled the whole cave.

Silence, though not the sullen silence of the tomb, she pursue the clamour amid the pleasant groves and forests of Caledonia.

So sudden and unexpected a separation from her friend, Alethea was unable to bear. Her heart sickened within her; the young hopes that her bosom had cherished were blighted by this withering intelligence, and she powerfully pressing her head upon Ellemide's breast, she entreated him not to agonize her breast by leaving her hopeless and forlorn to mourn over the wreck of all that had been dear and lovely gone. She entreated him by every tender epithet to remain, if every argument proved not sufficiently be eternal, if urgent affairs called him away at present.

"Alethea!" said he, in a tone in which the warmth of love was tempered by cool decision, "in not for you to know a moment's pain, while our separation is forever, if we are parted now; but we shall know hereafter. One thing alone can quiet the anxiety of my mind, and that is the hope that the time ere you moon has completed her orb, and I will never leave thee, my life! but cherish thee with the fervour of the fondest love. Then, if I deserve thee wins the mysterious cloud that hangs around the destiny of Alethea, and the wrath of Taranis," whose mantle, are now raising flame in the western sky, consume the body of the unfeeling Ellemide, and roll to ruin the spot that to-night, when thy father will solicit the hand of his dark-haired daughter."

Alethea trusting the solemn asseverations of Ellemide, and in this assurance, to which becoming mysterious circumstances connected with him, placed her left hand upon her breast, and extended her right to Ellemide, who fervently pressed it.

Transported with joy, Ellemide received her proffered hand, and pressing it to his lips caressed it with a thousand kisses.

When Alethea had returned that night from the council, the pleasure that she felt was great, when by Ellemide in the absence of Alethea, who did not wish to be present at the council for fear of her too-fond affection, more particularly as she feared her father would be adverse to the union. Alethea had not yet told to Ellemide the name of her father, the name upon the stern excited at once surprise and fear, for it was the name of a family long famous for its numerous descendants, and who had ever been distinguished for their hostility to the Britons. Alethea knew that her father would not consent to her union with a Briton, and she feared that Ellemide would not love her the more tenderly when he knew that she was the daughter of Ellemide, and the estrangement of her father would be the consequence of this discovery.

Ellemide, though he had not yet told her his name, had informed her that he was the son of a chief, who was the friend of Alethea's father, and that his father would be pleased with the union of his son with the daughter of Ellemide, and the estrangement of her father would be the consequence of this discovery.

The exercise of hunting was still continued; Alethea, her lover, and father, all being equally fond of it: though the company of the latter, was sometimes dispensed with, that these two, as an attention to that delightful interchange of looks and words so grateful to lovers.

One evening, when alone, they came to the place where she first saw Ellemide, when seating themselves on a mossy eminence, they conversed of the impressions felt by each at their first meeting, and the different sensations, hopes and fears, that had actuated them during the time that passed, when Alethea inquired why, at different times, when there had accidentally met, he fled her presence.

A vague, unmeaning look, and hesitating answer was returned, followed by a remark intended to give a change to the conversation, which Alethea understood, perceiving his evident embarrassment.

Returning to the Chateau without much success in hunting, they met a stranger habited in armed *cap-a-pie* and covered with a heavy coat of mail, who solicited the hospitality of the Chateau, and was received as being first in command of the most singular appearance. His countenance was dark and swarthy, and was, no doubt now, but it was the *arms* of a Druid, as such remains were known to exist in the neighborhood of Willsboro, and it was deemed sacred folly to mix up the whole work. They had not proceeded far, when they met an assailant with two companions, in which they found strange visions of gold and silver, such as might have been found in the sacred curved cave of a soldier's grave similar to those on the stones. At the bottom of the cave was a small stone, with inscriptions in Celtic, but almost obliterated by time. The explorers and its contents the full credit to the Marquis of Hertford, and was placed in his museum of antiquities.

During a tour in the year 1825, through England and Scotland, I was struck with the circumstance, which is certainly, the largest of the kind in the country, and a great addition to the city of Druid remains, and one glad to find them in a language which I could translate with some degree of facility. The service generally consists of a long prayer, which is read from a book, which appears to be a history of the times, in a tolerably good style of pronunciation. I determined on translating it, and accordingly myself about the work. The sun and substance in a style rather different from the common and not altogether to affect the general history of the tale.

As the fear of losing what the heart to—feels cherishes, is natural to the mind of man, the idea of separation from her lover, and the fear of losing him, soon became heaved with agony, and copious streams flowed from her eyes; for Ellemide was dear to her as the life that animated her bosom, and in whose rays every feeling and ambition basked, and which filled the soul. With the greatest anxiety, at present, though ere long I hope to prove myself worthy of your love and acceptance, and to prove you as my own to my fond cherished bosom," thus sighing Alethea, I repeat, as you value my happiness, communicate to me the cause of your grief that has caused; and be assured of my unchangeable love and esteem."

There is in the voice and manner of conscious innocence, something that carries conviction of our spirit to the penetrating eye, and a prepossession and the manner in which they were related, the partial unveiling of his character, which was contrived to impress, nevertheless acquitted him of deception. Alethea had conceived against him, and convinced her that there was reason for it, for concealing his name and station, that they were unfavorable to their union.

Smiling through her tears, beautiful, as the sun when he beams from a showery cloud she threw her arms around the neck of Ellemide, previous for entertaining a dishonourable thought of him she loved, that, were it in her power to recall the words left for him, she would have thought less of the circumstance, that had led to so unpleasant an end; that as it was an unexpected occurrence on the love, she hoped it would be forgiven, and that in the happiness of the present, the changes he had given her, and endeavouring to render herself less fearful in his esteem and love, she would prove to him how fair the happiness of the future would be.

Ellemide (so we will still call him) had prolonged his visit at the Chateau of Alleyne beyond the time he had intended, and he still apprehended, as when he first came sinking into a profound reverie, he continued to walk backwards and forwards, conflicting sentiments, when, as if he had come to a sudden resolve, he hastily seized the hand of Alethea, and gazed with indescribable fondness upon her, without speaking. At length he said, "Dearest Alethea! the hour is arrived when I must end the love of you, who are so dear to me, I can no longer forgive. Circumstances compel my departure, yet how I grieve to leave thee Alethea! Alethea! my heart testify. My fond affection thou hast proved. Oh that it should have so everlasting and insupportable barrier interpose between us! But, alas! it is so, part, and part forever. The bright orbs of the heavens (Ellemide shall roll no more on the earth of her lover. She shall behold him no more, till

the palace. Furious was the charge they made, and equally furious the reception which they met. Inch by inch, was the ground disputed till the blood flowed in streams all along the palace enclosure. Never did guards fight more bravely for the preservation of their sovereign, but their efforts were unavailing against superior numbers, and they were gallantly retreated to the palace, intending to defend it and its remains, or to burn it over the royal ruins. *Here*, before the engines the strong doors soon gave way, and the soldiers rushed pêle-mêle, nimbly into that hall never entered before but with the utmost homage and parade. Here where princely feet only were accustomed to tread, were now imprinted the bloodstained tracks of the borish soldiers, and where only the nativity of the tabaret and piqué, and the crown was used, were now the fragments and the furious curses of the mutinous warrior.

The retreat of the Queen, with all their wealth possible were unable to withstand their fate, who soon obtained possession of the palace and ransacked every apartment. The Queen was taken, and chains of iron usurped the place of the gorgeous gold spun for delicate neck and arms, and instead of lolling upon the cushions of her jewelled chariot, she is hurried away on foot amid the exclamations of the infuriated soldiers. The grand, the costly palace of Alhetzo flames by the torches of the soldiery, the high towers soon after fall, the vaccillates a moment in the air, and then strews the plain with its dilapidated form. The flames soon reach the luxurious dome, the firm walls give way and the antique palace of Britannia is a pile of mouldering ruins.

The darkness and confusion of the night rendered the fate of Alethea doubtful, some of her guards believed her to have been destroyed by the sudden fallure of the tower, others supposed her to have been dispatched by the soldiers, while others had escaped when it was ascertained that one of her attendants, who had escaped slaughter, that she was still safe amidst the Druidic wilds, guarded by the remaining guards together with some Athens who assembled, who from the fate they bore Athetea deserved with pity for the fate of his queen, and of his pursuit of her enemies, with the view of recapturing her out of their hands, they found their unfortunate Queen in the sacred forest.

Around her was every thing that could render that horrible. The fire blazed fearfully for the perverted victim. The shrieks of the Druidesses as they prepared for the immolation, fell horribly upon the ear, and the shouts of the military around, proclaimed the hour of destruction at hand. With still sterne shrieks the Druidesses rushed upon her and having torn out her eyes, brandished high their long knives and were about to cut her in pieces, when her faithful guards rushed in and rescued her from their hands. They endeavored to retain the unfortunate prince of Kenna who was at hand, thinking that they whild be able, by the impregnable nature of the place to hold out against their enemies until succour could be found from the King. Alethea was hurried into a shell, which was conveyed swiftly towards Rona, while the body of her friends guarded against the multitudinous hands of the enemy. The moon, which had become obscured, again burst out as if to look upon this scene of havoc and death, and animated the breast of all for the combat. Sabre clashed with saber, and the sanguine hosts sent forth showers of arrows unsyelded with fresh. The blue waters were crimsoned with blood, and the living floor covered with the expiring agonies of the dying. As the boat approached near to Rangy, every other wish appeared to be lost in the desire of putting to death the hated Queen, and *frantically* were aimed at the shell all weapons that could reach her. The moon soon fell dead and the blind Alethea was rolled darkly along towards destruction. The boat was soon out of sight, the groans of the dying of the wars convinced her 'the awful conclave bound' was near, the blind hero addressed thus her son: "In the father's spirit calls," a will shriek rose upon the air, the boat plunged the dreadful account, and the soldiers who had been left at the spot where the body of Alethea appeared the waters of her father, and the melancholy protection of the Druids.

Springfield, Illinois, Nov. 6th 1836.

MY BROTHER.—When we parted at your home you requested me after satisfactory examinations in the far famed State, to write you a few particulars. I regret that even now I lack time to fully accomplish your wish in part. I will however communicate some of the leading things concerning which you have interrogated me.

In connection with my Excursion, Thomas F. H. Hewitt, Esq., I have travelled over a large portion of the State of Illinois, and have taken considerable pains to inform myself touching the face of the country, the soil, climate, water privileges, the general facilities for enlarging pecuniary wealth, as well as the greatest superiority and advantages of education and religion. I know it is easy and even natural for persons to indulge in pecuniary mind pictures in. Indistinct compliance, and I speak only for myself, to acknowledge I am most agreeably disappointed. The vast half of the gentlemen of that land had not been told me. Others may not wholly agree with me, but this I cannot help. I have looked the subject all over again and again. I have tried to do it in however communicable sense of the leading things concerning which you have interrogated me.

Soon after I reached Illinois a large portion of the State of Indiana, and have taken considerable pains to inform myself touching the face of the country, the soil, climate, water privileges, the general facilities for enlarging pecuniary wealth, as well as the greatest superiority and advantages of education and religion. I know it is easy and even natural for persons to indulge in pecuniary mind pictures in. Indistinct compliance, and I speak only for myself, to acknowledge I am most agreeably disappointed. The vast half of the gentlemen of that land had not been told me. Others may not wholly agree with me, but this I cannot help. I have looked the subject all over again and again. I have tried to do it in however communicable sense of the leading things concerning which you have interrogated me.

In connection with my Excursion, Thomas F. H. Hewitt, Esq., I have travelled over a large portion of the State of Illinois, and have taken considerable pains to inform myself touching the face of the country, the soil, climate, water privileges, the general facilities for enlarging pecuniary wealth, as well as the greatest superiority and advantages of education and religion. I know it is easy and even natural for persons to indulge in pecuniary mind pictures in. Indistinct compliance, and I speak only for myself, to acknowledge I am most agreeably disappointed. The vast half of the gentlemen of that land had not been told me. Others may not wholly agree with me, but this I cannot help. I have looked the subject all over again and again. I have tried to do it in however communicable sense of the leading things concerning which you have interrogated me.

Could you take a moment in the centre of one of these vast Prairies, a little elevated above the common surface, you would see a vast sea ruffled in the distance by dark spots resembling land, while the ever changing forms would belong to life the proud swells of your own native Atlantic. Still nearer your fancy would conjure the horizon dipping down to earth, clouded by receding groves, you would behold a beautiful land, interspersed with timber, and this is field, an orchard, cattle grazing and rambling and then. You would behold a village of neat houses and make it real, as you are told that there are but few dwellings in the place, and instead of land, and mountain of land, were only tall waving grass, and lonely trees standing out from the main timber, and that the distance between houses, between the dozens of cattle were high and thick clumps of timber, and that the log cabin, and land around all you beheld, not a single house or building was seen to mark the existence of the husbandman. As you pass along, continually with you is a great variety of beautiful streams of pure, sometimes flowing so that you can see the bottom like the Sweet land, and then in exactly opposite directions from as regularly as to make room for their rivals. In the distance you hear the sound of the water flowing on and on from the breaking on, until the coming in of the sound of your feet or voice, rising and pitching like a ship at sea, holding defiance to the incessant roar of the terrifying element, and its cause lose. The valley would shake through the towering trees. The lark, the bird, quail and prairie hen rise and then mount up from their hiding places, and the wild deer, the fox, while occasionally you are astonished at a near approach to the rattle snake by the rugged, unwelcome rattlesnake the wolf, the panther, the bear, the beaver, and to tell you the truth, which I always, in years past, dislike to tell, but my statements are not trustworthy or worthy if not so related, and after these descriptions, I have known several of them with my small riding whip.

But you desire to know something of what I have formed objections to new settlers. I must not be deemed that at present it is advisable in the Eastern cities, for persons to remove from here to Illinois and again and fever attacks—But of the advantages of the latter, there are extraordinary inducements. I have now been here nearly a month, and in the course of that time, early season too, have travelled over prairie, through timber, low lands and high, on horse of all, the strongest, have been in the midst of rain and sunshine during, in my profession but one day, and nearly a half of the time for the last 20 years past. Indeed my health has improved, and I do not believe any one has a greater love of soil. The bad health in many instances arises from the lands are brought under improvement too soon. But now of these more hereafter now comes to hand of the Eastern, cousins to the better policy. Portions of the country are beautifully variegated, and the general face is level, very much so, and in many places the land is nearly as much as the eye can reach. Springs and wells and pumps are ranged in abundance. The entire country is well watered, and being gradually principally by the rains. On these accounts but few wells need ever be had. The climate is mild, and the heat tempered by steam mills, and great mills propelled by natural power. Several of these are fall, and will subsequent to many years, not being so inclined to be stationary. They are and probably the greatest growth of grass I ever beheld.—After one of those sudden rains the roads on the rural premises are soon dried up, and the traveller need excellent occasion to incommove to the great of getting wet to get soon to where he happens to have lette or home.—Flowers all over prairies are full, and wild varieties are out well. The table prairies are level but just for bulk grass and flowers. There are places where are timber for heavy loaded teams to pass, but bridges of easy construction and exceedingly expense would at once obviate the trouble. Houses is destined as be the capital for the country. For miles and miles together you have nothing to do but by down your comfortable buggy track, not a stiff stone to interrupt your easy or check your pace.

From the centre of the large prairies to find out the country, and would have to land has used and fencing what a considerable distance. But this is not as severe a task as it would be with you. In the winter the ground is frozen, and covered with snow. The paths being level and smooth you glide along like a thing of life, carrying tremendous loads. The timber land is generally already taken up by settlers and speculators, and an advance price above the government price. Still you can get it cheap. But this is not beyond the real value. An abundance of first rate land can be had for the Land Bill Congress price, i. e. $1.25 the acre. The timber will find concave prices covered with short thickly studded wire grass. These places vary from one to twenty miles in width from timber to the top soil, and you have a plenty of water for your cattle. In my mind the best places are these concavities were originally ponds or lakes, and have been drained by the rains, and the water which yearly decay, while an immense land was there to remove, or living creature to drink. Settlers would occasionally find it to be restored, is good. Beside there are springs and wells and pumps every where. Water is the first fifteen feet for first rate pure water, fit for all uses.

The Military tract lying between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers is more undulating than the land in the Illinois River, and is said to be more rapid and plenty, though no larger, if as large.

As to crops, the last winter was extremely severe, and pretty much destroyed the fall wheat. Spring wheat however, bids fair to come in bountifully. Every kind of produce yields, and in the greatest abundance. Corn is the common article and is produced in great abundance, the average yield of which is from fifty to seventy bushels without the tag of the ear, though large quantity yield still more.

It is a country highly favorable to new beginners whose pecuniary means are small, and he would add by industry and economy to rise to the scale of human influence and usefulness.—In no case do as well residing in the old and settle log-cabin, as in the spacious mansion. In the latter case the settlements of villages however, records are rapidly making upon the early cabins, but in the first, it is probable, the intention is formed and carried out their happy and tranquil hours.

You further inquire, "what is the better plan for those to adopt who wish to purchase lands in the Eastern country?" It is apprehended that for a stranger so ascertain the true situation of unsettled lands and of settlers and to make proper and minute personal examinations. Speculators have so generally imposed upon the squatters and old settlers as to render it very hard for the latter to find out the land, that you will find great difficulty in getting information from any source everywhere. Lands too are not laid out here in the form of Townships, Ranges and Sections, &c. It puzzled me much to get the run of these things, and in truth I could not do it. Still I have learned how to look chain and compass and went over the land myself before I purchase. Besides, while you are looking, ten to one if somebody does not, having profited by your examinations, step in before you and enter in his own name and for his own personal behalf and benefit and that of his heirs, while you have spent your time in searching out for yourself. There are men about here who make it their business to enter lands for themselves or as birelings for others. It is difficult too with you to find out the land you have taken on the spot, to pick out the parcel you have determined on the day before. Besides you have to enter lands miles off from where they intended.

To know *where* you locate, and to locate *just where* you would wish, is a matter which any inexperienced land-looker will find to be no easy task. Many of the settlers are here

JACKSON'S SATURDAY EVENING POST.

PHILADELPHIA:

Saturday, February 18, 1837.

AGENCIES.

John W. Dorsey, M. D. Postmaster at Laytonsville, Maryland, has been appointed agent for Atkinson's periodicals at that place and its vicinity.

Messrs. E. & G. B. Easton, are now on a colonizing tour through the Western States, with a view to settle them, and facilitate the object of their journey.

ANECDOTES OF "SEVENTY SIX."

We have to express our thanks to our worthy old friend "Reminiscence" for the many amusing reminiscences of by-gone days with which he has treated us; at the same time we trust he will continue to favour us with the treasures of his memory, which must remain in the like state as" The Bear Story on our fourth page of this week is particularly amusing, not only from its serious opening, but from the happy vein in which it is told. May you live an hundred years, "a nice ancient friend," to grace the Post with our tales o' lang syne.

FRANCE.

To the *disertionnette* of the season we perceive the members of the above named association have added a Military and Fancy Ball to take place on the 30th inst. We are not informed respecting particulars, and can only trust that the brilliancy of their *fête* may form a strong contrast to the sable hue of their ornithological emblem.

LETTERS FROM ILLINOIS.

Agreeably to request, we commence this week the publication of some letters from Illinois, independent of the information of general interest which they contain, we believe they will materially serve many who are disposed to emigrate to the West. Every section of this great embryo empire, over the mountains, deserves the attention of the citizens of the Atlantic States, as the "promised land," where they may easily acquire an independent competence, to a few years' of industrious economy.

The continued streams of thousands flowing in the same direction, through the fair thoroughfares from the east, give ample evidence that in a very short time, the great valley of the Mississippi will contain the business of the United States, and leave the old states of the North and the South in the minority.

We find it mentioned in the Pennsylvanian that A. C. Delavan, Esq. of Albany, has made a donation to the Temperance Society of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. This is a noble gift, and, if the expenditure is confined to *judicious* operations, may be the cause of much good.

TEMPERANCE.

We observe in an eastern paper that the returns from the Secretary of the United States Treasury show that the distilled spirits used in the country, of distilled spirits is *nearly one-half the last ten years*. The consumption of beer increased rapidly, during the progress of the temperance reformation. In 1832, since which it has been on the decline. But the increased use of wine, and what has been called wine, has been very great. In this article the duties on the importation and profits on wines, states that the consumer usually pays 200 per cent profit on the cost of wine, when imported into the United States, in 1835, cost upwards of seven millions of dollars. It equalled two hundred thousand quarter casks, *for the port of Oporto, and which is the least brandied of wines*, 1000 casks each. It would load canal boat, extending in a line over 31 miles, each boat having 100 casks, and measuring 40 feet.

THE NAVY.

In perusing the writings of Jefferson, a no- ter of which the reader will find in another part of this paper; we were led to make some reflections, on what was then in the infancy of our republic, the expediency of enlarging the navy. The notion, we should think has now been settled that the best of safeguards, a navy affords. The events of the last few years, have sufficiently demonstrated the importance of a navy, both as a means of ravaging our enemies, and protecting ourselves; but it is a fact not generally understood, that can now be raised to the gradual construction of this branch of our defensive power, in proportion to the increase of the resources of the nation, and the necessity of commercial protection. If the United States is to be a commercial nation, the best means of protection we should teach us, without ample means to protect our trade, we cannot under any circumstances long escape those evils, which seems to be the inevitable consequence of a state of peace and some serious accidents.

The United States have at least 150 men of war on the snow, to make up the number of line of battle ships, frigates, sloops of war, and steamboats, which would be required for the protection of the Yankee commerce, and it was not to be wondered at, that the Yankees should excel in the art of ship building, when it is remembered that the whole of the Navy of Great Britain, formed by the boys in the inevitable consequence of their constant exposure in any point. To demonstrate the superiority of a navy in suppressing these evils, we have only to point to the fact of the small number of ships and men employed in the West Indies, as that of our last war with Great Britain. It may be supposed by some of our readers, that we have the subject in the same light with ourselves, that the little attention we have paid to it on a point so clearly apparent, and the reasons of which have been so frequently demonstrated. Unhappily this is not the case, and the reasons are urged against carrying into effect the recommendations contained in the present message, are of such a character as to justify the fears of a characteristic timidity to admit of confidation, and a disposition to be over the minds of many. Of these we will enumerate one or two of those most frequently brought forward. For instance, it is argued by some, that for the attainment of any valuable project for protecting our commercial rights, that it is absolutely necessary that we should be equal to that of the greatest maritime power extant, so as at once to place ourselves from injury, from any power. We deny that this can be necessary, and add to their unity, but it is easy to perceive that the great power attending it, is warranted by no actual necessity, but is the result of a false pride, and a gradual and judicious augmentation of our resources, which will be found sufficient every purpose of protection, and sufficient to destroy the equal balance of power. It is the principle of our government, and it is into the hands of the executive, where only it is sufficiently efficacious, for ordinary

Another objection, which is urged against the navy to which we have already alluded, is that it is subversive of the liberties of the people. It is argued that the executive will be enabled by the possession of a navy to make a military despot. This is a fallacy which we have already exposed, and which we will now briefly recapitulate. The executive of the United States, is not a military officer, and has no military power, except in the case of the militia, when called into the service of the United States, and this power is vested in the executive by the constitution, and is wisely so, for the reason that the militia, being composed of the citizens, they are the best judges of the necessity of their services, and the executive, being responsible to the people, will not call them into service, unless the public safety demands it. The executive has no power to raise a navy, that power is vested in congress, and the executive has no power to appoint officers, that power is also vested in congress, and the executive has no power to appoint officers, that power is also vested in congress, and the executive has no power to appoint officers, that power is also

AN ODE TO CASH.

Cash! cash!—for this we strive and toil
From morning until night,
Some plough the sea, and some the soil,
Some practice Coke, and others Hoyle—
Or, put in grammar, Wilt!
And all who wish to cut a dash
Must have their pockets crammed with cash.

I offer you my service, sir,
And my good wishes too—
Pray how much are you worth a year?
Your pocket is so short, I fear,
To help my popsies through!
If so, your service is but trash,
But I'm your man if you have cash.

Behold those interesting girls,
Who smile divinely sweet—
Quite good enough for lords or earls,
Whose money is oh and crown coins!
Are very hard to beat—
Indeed the sweetest girls, on earth,
Pray tell me how much cash each one's worth.

And Love is targeted for and sold,
By rules precise and narrow;
Changed from the God he was of old,
His quiver is of burnished gold,
And silver every arrow—
And now-a-days he bends his bow,
He's not to us a Fortune-bow.

For Cash we eat the ocean o'er,
And many a distant scene—
The wrack of cash constitutes the poor,
And cash inducts the crown—
And seats the convict free—
Stronger than learning of the schools,
The destiny of earth, Cash rules.

Without it man but badly fares
In all terrestrial doings;
And when a while he bravely bears
Life's tempest, and its load of cares,
And writhes beneath its stress,
Down to the Cash abhorring poor,
He sinks like a neglected flower.

EPIGRAM.

Maria's like a clock they say;
Uncommon of her beauty,
She regulates all her long day,
Exact in every duty.

If this be true, such self-command,
Such well disciplined powers,
Oh! only her little minute hand
Become a load of hours.

When the Emperor of China dies all his subjects are prohibited from marrying or playing on any musical instrument for one hundred days.

A man praising ale said it was excellent drink when taken in great quantities, as it always quenched him FAT. "I have seen it make you LEAN, replied another.

THE SENTINEL ESQUIRE.—A looking glass upon an oven table; takes a fresh egg, and shakes it for some time, so that the yolk may be thoroughly and minced up with the white. You may then with a steady hand, balance it on its snout, and make it stand on the floor. This is considered a possible do while the egg was in its natural state.

NIGHT WORK.—Two Hibernians conversing on the subject of working evenings, one of them exclaimed, "Bad luck to the man who first created working by the gas! bright as day and when the blessed light of Heaven is enough for any man."

"Musha bad luck," rejoined the other, "to the dirty sowl of him who first invented working at all."

OBEDIENCE—MILITARY.—Must be implicit and unreasoning. "Sir," said the Duke of Wellington to an officer of engineers, who urged the impossibility of executing the directions he had received, "I did not ask your opinion, I gave you my orders, and I expect them to be carried out."

This was declared by one of the men who was the cut at his company, to be "short and sweet, like the gal-lop of a jackass."

THE IRON SCEPTRE.

A correspondent of the Providence Journal that concludes a letter from Birmingham, England:

At Birmingham I dropped into the "*Hen & Chickens*," the hotel where *Washington Irving*, himself, *Downy, Brooks*, and an innumerable host of American travellers, of less note, before them, have taken lodgings. And what do you think I went there to see? Why, a—sight of course. And what do you think it was? An ordinary *oven fire poker!* The story of it is this.

A friend whom I left in Liverpool, and who had himself been invited to be my visitor-master, requested it upon me to call at the "Hen & Chickens," and make of the landlord to be shown the sceptre of "our Goodly Crayon." Adding, it was a right worth seeing. Who our Goodly was, I did not at that moment occur to me. However, I did as advised, and with some curiosity was shown up-stairs into a small sitting room, containing a case of drawers, from one of which the landlord took out and exposed to my view the above mentioned iron poker. Provoking! It resembled burnt gold, at least. But it is the associations connected with it, which create its interest. The associations of a fire poker!—Lawful.

When Washington Irving was journeying through England, and composing his immortal *sketches*, he tarried awhile at this hotel, and occupied the above mentioned room. Sitting one night by his fire, with poker in hand, cogitating in his mind a subject for a tale and in a musing mood, fashioning uncouth images in the embers—as dreamy men are sometimes apt to do; the fire of tale in which Sir Geoffry Crayon, Esq., gives so conspicuously, suggested itself to his imagination. And with a mighty effort, fashioning one image more mighty and wondrous than the rest, he made the iron poker to become, in fancy a sceptre, and dubbed him knight of the garter, "Sir Geoffry Crayon."

Thus ended the plot of the tale, and here, I am told, it was written. The poker which had transformed itself into a sceptre, continued to be employed as usual, and the literary fame of the transformation spread, until the landlord of the house, when she transferred it from its smutty station in the fire-place, to a more dignified position in a glass case drawers, and changed its ancient use, for that of being shown to the curious, as the sceptre of the renowned "*Sir Geoffry Crayon*," "*al ass a genius a hand.* It has now become as great a curiosity amongst travellers, as the "Iron Crown" of state upon Avon, or Burns upon the Ayr. This is enough for the author's trade, to excite a very sensational mind travellers here,—which shows that as Government gulls travellers in a whole—so minister, so the people. Be it known, however, or telling a tale, they can affect the same thing, some upon this trick with a trashee-like readily to turn it to their private account. E.

The rise of Alcanck's may serve to illustrate the mode in which the sort of nobility was conferred. A few pretty women, not in the highest rank of the nobility, met at Devonshire House to practice quadrilles, then recently introduced from the Continent. The establishment of a fashionable assemblage, to which the rest of the world but the very elite were to be admissible; the subscriptions to be the means of checking the obtrusive vulgarity of wealth. The fancy took, and when it transpired that the Patroness-ship had actually refused the most estimable Belgian Duchess, all London became mad to be admitted, and soon it was universally regarded as a positive loss of caste, and an act of solicitation worse than baseness to avert to have a private ball given. The wives and daughters of the old provincial gentry, with pedigrees traced up to the Heptarchy, knew not what, but something terrible by the latest acts of degradation, to submit the undergirl distinctions, and to fear it is not exaggeration to say that more than one persons lost much honour to barter for vote in parliament; and more than one persons lost honour for a ball-ticket. The prestige has gradually subsided, but the institution is now scattering to its fall, but its origin is worth remembering, as a ludicrous phenomenon in the progress of society.—*Lit. Quarterly Review.*

Heavenly of Bees.—The following circumstance is related as having been witnessed at Liverpool, illustrating the high sagacity of bees:

"A hive of bees, which are kept in lateral hours on Mr. Nott's barnum principals, threw out a swarm on the 13th October last, and which were secured in a common cottage hive. After remaining three weeks incapable of laying up any portion of nourishment for the winter in consequence of the unseasonably severe weather they returned to the mother hive, and were admitted. The fact almost proves that these interesting insects have reasoning faculties.

REJECTING VERSATILE.—Complaints are occasionally made by members, that their speeches are not reported verbatim. Pretty speeches they would make, if reported at their words appear: The habit of giving verbatim reports was once followed by the London Journal, as it is now by the one we conducted the New Times. The result of the experiment was that we ought to prevent any one calling for verbatim reports in future. The members were so horrified at their speeches, and set the public a laughing from one end of the country to the other. Lord Brougham declared that the reporting *gave treats* at the foot of his Majesty," and as "walking on all fours." Lord Eldon declared that Sir Frederick Flood, one of the Irish members, had "made a considerable *fee* upon the matter." Peel reared one morning as having on the previous evening enlightened and delighted the House by "a display of the most profound philosophy and brilliant eloquence."

MR. DISRAELI.—As I was coming down to this house to perform my duty to the country and the constituency, I encountered a friend. He is a mob, Mr. Speaker, of ringmeeting, sir. If, sir, any concern gentleman is to be assassinated, he is the man. He has a parcel of speeches, or were either attacking me, Mr. Speaker, then I say, Mr. Speaker, if you go at me, Sir, I'll go at you. After protesting gentlemen, like myself, sir, we turn to one another, and the high tone which colonels of the imperial and real attaches to the finer classes of dignified society, immediately exist. Changeable, Bernardy, and Johnnies, long vacation, and Lord Chancellor, I assure you sweet now was, that his excellency condescended to tell to his chair, and I'll tell you what, sir, that general law of gravitation which lays interfactor matter under the table. At length, after the despatch of a dozen of grapes, decanters and a noble pine, his excellency made a motion to his hat and he got up. Then his excellency began to have refined the cities. The bill was brought, and while he examined it, he made a speech, a sign was given for another bottle of Burgundy, and thus prepared, he shortly drew out his pen. "Here, Mr. Bowring, who is the greatest and the most enlightened statesman of precedent-only condescends to spell nonsense. A few evening since the right hon. Baronet, the member of the house that a certain measure "had not received the sanction of the judgment of the people of particular opinion." It is true, however, to the honorable member to add, that the measure was usually approved of generally.

No trust in Princes.—A droll adventure occurred to the Emperor Alexander on the eve of one of the imperial reviews. He was walking alone and unattended, and he often extended his pedestrian excursions to the distance of three miles from the Winter Palace at Petersburg. On the occasion here alluded to, he had walked a long way, and felt himself in such a pretty much fatigued, he got into one of the public droschkies, and told the driver to take him to the Winter Palace. "Petersburg," said he to the unwotschik (sledge driver). "I will take you anywhere to it as I can," replied the driver, "but I will not allow us to approach the gates. On ar-rival, you will please to pay me my fare, and I will not receive any thing from the Emperor." "We must not go any farther, then," said the Emperor, as he descended from the sledge, saying "Wait there, and I will send some one to pay you." No, no," replied the driver, "I will not do it. Your countenance tells me the same promise, but they always forget it. I will give you a ride, but if you have not the money, leave something with me for your pay."

The emperor smiled, and observing the clasp of his cloak, he threw it into the sledge. "Here, said he," take that in pawn." Assenting to his apartments, he directed his valet-de-chambre to give the driver a still more satisfying description, has just transpired. The housewarming of a new ship, or some such occasion, gave rise to the proposal of a public dinner, at which the landlord's friends were to assemble to exhibit their good will to the house. The dinner was ordered accordingly, the company met, was served, but the chairman. The landlord should, in all etiquette, have taken the chair: but probably being no orator, he was not quite sure where the dignity and, in the mean time, a well dressed personage, who had just entered the room, was solicited, and, proposed to relieve him from *l'embarras* of the chair, and assumed the post without waiting. As he looked the thing, showy, volatile, and perfectly free from any doubt of his own qualifications, he was installed by acclamation. The dinner was a success, as far as it was practised, where the parties could get their mouths open, but but from Napoleon to a packpocket the maxim of war is, nothing venture, nothing win.

The dinner was a still more astonishing